74

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MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION

When the History of Medicine Division rejoins the main National Library of Medicine in its new building this spring it will bring to Bethesda the Library's collection of medieval and modern manuscripts, along with its world-famous collection of incunabula and other rare medical books. With the facilities available in the new building for housing and servicing such collections and the proximity of the Library to other great resources for historical research in metropolitan Washington, this collection is expected to enter a period of more active growth, especially in the field of the modern manuscripts. Historical investigators know how often essential clues to understanding the development of a scientist's thought or a statesman's purposes will be found in notes, correspondence, lectures, or other unpublished papers. Only through the fortunate preservation of his manuscript notes for the Lumleian lectures in 1616 do we know that William Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood at least twelve years before the publication of the De Motu Cordis. In its role as collector and conservator of medical works of all ages, NLM will take part in preserving personal papers of physicians, biological scientists, and medical statesmen of note for the benefit of future historical scholars. By taking steps to preserve the unpublished as well as the published record, posterity will be provided with the means to appreciate fully the contributions of an individual.

The Library was particularly pleased to announce at the time of the Dedication Ceremony the receipt of a collection of correspondence (about 3,400 items) from one of its old and valued friends, Dr. Chauncey D. Leake. These and other papers acquired by the Library will be available to scholars for research purposes after being arranged, described, and cataloged. When necessary or appropriate the Library will accept restrictions on the free use of donated papers for a limited number of years. Interested persons are invited to write to the Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine.

ABSTRACTING OF SOVIET JOURNALS

With the December 1961 issue (Vol. 5, No. 12), Abstracts of Soviet Medicine, published by Excerpta Medica Foundation, Amsterdam, ceased as an independent publication. The abstracting activity will be continued at the same level in 1962, but the abstracts will be published in the separate subject sections of Excerpta Medica.

Abstracts of Soviet Medicine has been supported by the Public Health Service through its Russian Science Translation Program. To date it has published 23,422 abstracts in five volumes, representing comprehensive coverage of Soviet medical publication. In reviewing this program last year, and in recommending continuing support, the National Advisory Health Council stated its conviction that the abstracts would be more useful to the scientific community if they were included with other world literature bearing on medical problems and were submitted to the responsible editorial staffs of the subject sections of Excerpta Medica. Necessary arrangements for this purpose have been made by Excerpta Medica Foundation with the Editorial Advisory Group in the Academy of Medical Sciences, USSR, and with its editors.

The Science Translation Program is also cooperating with the National Science Foundation in supporting increased abstracting of Soviet and Iron Curtain literature for publication in Biological Abstracts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MEDICAL REVIEWS

Volume 6, 1961, Bibliography of Medical Reviews, supersedes the five annual volumes of this publication (1955-59), and lists 3,300 review articles from the 1960 literature, thus making it a cumulation of reviews for the period 1955-1961. Although a number of articles cited in the annual BMR volumes were eliminated for various reasons during the editing for this cumulation, it is estimated that there are some 21,000 subject entries for approximately 13,500 review articles, collected over a six-year period from 1,949 journal titles.

For this cumulation all articles have been re-indexed to conform with the rubrics listed in Medical Subject Headings. The style of entry used is that of the Index Medicus.

Another annual volume of BMR is now in preparation, covering the literature of 1961; beginning in September 1961 all BMR articles are also listed in the monthly issues of Index Medicus.

Copies of Volume 6 of BMR may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, at $3.50 each.

TRANSFER OF MEDICAL MOTION PICTURE ARCHIVES

On the recommendation of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine, the Surgeon General has approved the transfer of the function of collecting medical motion pictures from the Library to the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Georgia. On January 1, 1962, the archival collection of historical films on medicine and health-related sciences was officially transferred, along with associated files. Film cataloging, formerly accomplished at NLM, is now a responsibility of CDC's Audiovisual Section.

This transfer of function and archives is in keeping with changing and expanding roles of both the CDC and the NLM. The audiovisual program of the Center in Atlanta has become a national resource for the development, production, distribution, and utilization of audiovisual materials.

SUBJECT HEADING CHANGES

Librarians will wish to note the consolidated list of subject heading changes which appears on the page preceding the Subject Section of the January 1962 issue of Index Medicus. This is a combined listing of changes which have been made in Medical Subject Headings since its issuance in 1960.

BIOMEDICAL SERIALS, 1950-1960

Biomedical Serials, 1950-1960, a Selective List of Serials in the National Library of Medicine, has been sent to press, and publication is expected in mid-April. The list is intended primarily as a guide to the substantive biomedical serials of which the Library holds at least one issue for the period 1950-1960. There are 8,939 titles, selected from a working file of about 18,500 serials represented in the Library for the years covered. The entries are under title, and the following bibliographic information is given: title, publishing or issuing body, place of publication, descriptive holdings information or imprint date, frequency, and notes relating to the period covered. Symbols are used to show where NLM had no issue later than 1958 at the time of editing and to indicate scattered holdings, or large gaps in holdings, for the period 1950-1960 of a serial it aims to acquire completely. Arrangement is alphabetical, word-by-word, to the end of the title, ignoring initial and internal articles, internal conjunctions and prepositions. Entries, but not cross-references, are numbered.

Of the 8,939 titles included 3,228, indicated by the dot symbol (.) preceding the title, were presumably dead (i.e., NLM had no issue later than 1958 at the time of the

editing). The remaining 5,711 live titles, about one-third of the original file, give a reasonable measure of the number of current substantive medical serials as of 1960. The figure includes the titles of secondary indexing and abstracting publications.

A MOVING EXPERIENCE

Formal invitations to bid for a contract to move the National Library of Medicine to its new building in Bethesda have been issued by General Services Administration. The History of Medicine Division will be moved from Cleveland to the new building on a separate contract. An "open house" for representatives of prospective bidders was held on January 23, during which tours were given in both the present and the new NLM buildings to acquaint them with the nature and extent of materials to be moved and special problems related to the moving operation. The NLM moving plan and outline of the arrangement of collections in the new building were presented. Award of a contract is expected early in February; it is probable that moving will commence in March with the major part occurring April 13-15 and staff occupancy of the new building effective April 16, 1962.

SALES FIGURES

The Government Printing Office has sold 1,892 copies of Medical Subject Headings since its issuance some eighteen months ago. Of the final two volumes of the Fifth Series of the Index-Catalogue, which appeared last summer, 77 and 68 copies have been sold. One year after its appearance, 889 copies of Russian Drug Index have been sold.

PROBLEMS OF RECATALOGING

It is noted that the recent recataloging of six Russian serial titles involved the handling of 366 bound volumes and 28 reels of microfilm.

FRIENDS AND PATRONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE ARE REMINDED THAT ITS NEW ADDRESS WILL BE 8600 WISCONSIN AVENUE, BETHESDA 14, MARYLAND, EFFECTIVE ON OR ABOUT APRIL 16, 1962. UNTIL THEN THE ADDRESS REMAINS AT WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, February 26, 1960